# QUANTA

## COME AND CELEBRATE

**1984 – 2005**

**29th and 30th OCTOBER 2005**

**Volume 22 ISSUE 7/8**
**Aug/Sep 2005**

# Information on The Group

Membership of QUANTA, the independent QL user group is by annual subscription. The Membership secretary can supply full details. Copies of the group's constitution & annual accounts are available from the Secretary. There is an extensive software library. There are active national and international subgroups. Details are given in the Welcome Booklet Disk.

# Quanta Committee - 2005/2006

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# EDITORIAL John Mason

The Committee met on Sunday 6th August last, and included in this Magazine is a precise of that meeting.

Surrey and London Sub Groups are jointly presenting a Quanta Workshop at Byfleet on Sunday 25th September. Details were given in the June/July magazine. See you there!

The "QL is 21" celebratory weekend at Portsmouth on Saturday 29th/ Sunday 30th October has almost arrived.

One only gets one opportunity to celebrate a 21st Birthday so I hope that as many Quanta Members, and other QL Users as possible will come to join in what promises to be a most interesting Workshop.

Further details below.

The warming up process is well under way

Looking forward to seeing you all at both Byfleet and Portsmouth

John Mason, Chairman

**COPY DATE for OCTOBER/NOVEMBER Issue is –**

**30th OCTOBER 2005**

Please ensure that your copy reaches the Editor by or before that date. Copy on Paper or Magnetic Media or by Email ALL Welcome. Copy on Microdrive or floppy disk or CD to be accompanied by hard copy printout. Copy by Email to – editor@quanta.org.uk

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## *COME AND CELEBRATE – QL is 21* Roy Brereton

**When – Saturday 21st and Sunday 30th October 2005**
**Where – IBIS Hotel, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth**

This Major International Quanta Workshop will open at 10.00 am on Saturday 29th for two days of presentations and demonstrations with many main traders present. With separate programme for Non-Qlers.

On the Saturday evening there will be a Celebratory Dinner,

Continuing on Sunday 30th October with a shorter day finishing at about 1.00 pm to enable you to get home in daylight

Bring your own systems the halls are well provided with electrical sockets Lecturers and demonstrators will have the use of an Internet connection and a projector.

### OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION WITHOUT LEAVING THE WORKSHOP

The Portsmouth Ibis Hotel has 144 rooms and a weekend price of £42.95 per room per night. An extended continental buffet breakfast is £4.95. We are therefore recommending the hotel for all visitors to QL is 21 who require overnight accommodation.

Quanta has negotiated a special bookings procedure with the Ibis Hotel. Please use this procedure when booking accommodation.

**Book by telephone** and not by other means. The telephone number is **+44(0)2392 - 640000**. When making your booking **state** that you will be attending the **"QL is 21 Computer Conference"** on 29th and 30th October.

When you have made your booking, please tell **Roy Brereton**.

## THE CELEBRATORY DINNER

This will take the form of a three course Carvery Buffet followed by Fresh Coffee or Tea at £18.00 per head. A Vegetarian option will be available. See menu below

Advance bookings with £10.00 deposit per place to John Gilpin. Balance to paid on the day. This meal can also be booked on the day.

## QL is 21 CELEBRATORY DINNER MENU

***Tomato Soup***
Served with herb croutons
-x-x-x-
***Carvery Buffet***
Your choice of rotisserie style half-roasted chicken
or
roast pork filled with spiced Californian plums
Served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables
-x-x-x-
***Chocolate Fudge Cake***
Served with fresh cream
-x-x-x-
***Fresh Coffee or Tea***

## GETTING THERE BY ROAD

From the **M27** turn off at **junction 12** onto the **M275**. Follow the **signs to the city centre, sea front and then Guild Hall**. The IBIS hotel is located on Winston Churchill Avenue.

Please note you cannot turn right into the hotel from Winston Churchill Avenue. So continue driving past the hotel to the first roundabout and then return on the other carriageway.

The hotel has its own secure parking facilities for residents and free parking for day visitors to QL is 21 subject to availability.

## GETTING THERE BY TRAIN

The nearest **railway station** to the show venue is **Portsmouth and Southsea** (NOT Portsmouth Harbour).

## GETTING THERE BY COACH

There are regular coach services to Portsmouth from London Victoria Coach Station with a journey time of about 2 and a half hours. The coach terminal is at the Harbour Interchange.

## NEED TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS

**The hotel is 5 minutes walk from the city centre, 10 minutes walk from the seafront, museums and Gunwharf Quay.**

## Annual General Meeting 2006
### Notice No. 1

QUANTA Committee invites bids to hold the

Annual General Meeting 2006

on the weekend of April 8th/9th 2006

at a Venue in the northern half of UK

Any Sub Group/Member wishing to host the AGM should notify the Secretary by or before 29th October 2005

## SUBGROUP MEETINGS

**THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH QL & 68000 User Group**

This long-running group has moved back to its previous venue, the Queens Head pub in the City Centre. Meetings remain open to Quanta members and non-members alike. The Queens Head is in Steelhouse Lane, Central Birmingham, four minutes walk from Snow Hill main-line railway station and has ample street parking nearby.

Meetings are usually on the first and third Monday of each month (but not on Bank holidays unless the previous one was cancelled for that reason). After your first meeting you're expected to pay £1 each time towards the organisation and monthly newsletter costs - except once a year when the group pays all those who attend a pound instead (We provide food twice a year for those who attend the AGM and the group's birthday party) and at meetings we discuss all sorts of things, QL-related and otherwise, usually from about 8:20pm onwards till 10:30 or later. The group owns QL hardware, a disk library and subscribes to relevant magazines. People can join the mailing list for £3.50 per year, even if they can't attend regularly.

The contact number remains Mike Bedford White's, on 0121 708 2560, anytime after 11am.

**EAST ANGLIAN QL USER GROUP**

Meetings happen on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at Bramerton Village Hall. Bramerton is just south of Norwich. They start at 1pm and end at 5pm. There is free parking on site, and tea/coffee is also provided free. If you can, please bring your QL system, all welcome.

Tarquin Mills <speccyverse@ntlworld.com> or Tel:01603-470399

**QUANTA DORSET SUBGROUP**

Meetings are held at the Merley Community Centre in Harrier Drive, Merley just south of Wimborne Minster. All are welcome.
Normally on the second Sunday of each month .

John Meadows Tel: 01202 576189, or John Mason, 01425 275894.

**LONDON QL AND QUANTA GROUP**

Meetings are held in the School Room, which is the basement of the Borough Welsh Congregational Chapel, 90, Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1. This is almost opposite the junction with Marshalsea Road, at the other end of which, 5 minutes walk away, is the Borough Underground Station. Free parking is easily available in Southwark Bridge Road for road users, Cyclists are welcome.

Members currently each pay a subscription of £30 per year towards the cost of the hire of the hall and a small additional charge is made for tea/coffee - biscuits are then provided free.

Please bring your QL equipment if possible, all types welcome, e.g, PC portable running emulators. The Group has some systems stored at the venue for its use. In addition, there are lots of donated second user equipment, books, magazines, etc, available for purchase.

Time : 2.00pm to 6.00pm, on the second Sunday of the month.
No meetings are held in either December - winter break, or August - summer break. Giving 10 meetings a year.

Malcolm Cadman : Tel: 020 8691 5780; email: ql@mcad.demon.co.uk

**NEMQLUG - THE NORTH EAST MANCHESTER QL USER GROUP**

181, Urmston Lane, Stretford, Manchester. M32 9EH (Near Junction 7 of M60 Motorway - Was Junction 7 M63 Motorway). Our informal meetings start at 7-OOpm and finish at 11-OOpm. All welcome.
Meets on the last Thursday of each month (except December).

John/Sarah Gilpin 0161-865 2872 (gilpins@ic24.net) or John/Alison Southern 01625-850067. (tarragon@bigfoot.com)

**SCOTTISH QL USERS GROUP**

SQLUG meets at George Gwilt's every second Sunday in the month. Please contact George Gwilt before coming to get the location.

Geogwilt@aol.com

**SOLENT SUBGROUP**

Meets at Botley Market Hall, all welcome. Park at the back and use side entrance.
1st Saturday of the month from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

Graham Evans, tel: 023 8040 3350.

**SURREY QUANTA SUBGROUP (SQSG)**

Venue is St Giles Church Hall, Ashtead. (This is the other side, towards the downs, of the main Epsom - Leatherhead road, up Park Lane which is at the Epsom end of the town).
From 8.00 to 10.30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month, except December.

Ken Bain 01932 347 432 (to midnight), kenb@bcs.org.uk

**SUSSEX QL USER GROUP**

Currently without a meeting place, anyone interested should contact Keith Mitchell or Roy Wood.

Roy Wood, 01273 386030 or Keith Mitchell, 01903 742263.

JOCHEN MERZ SOFTWARE

Kaiser-Wilh.-Str. 302 • 47169 Duisburg • Germany
E-Mail: SMSQ@J-M-S.com http://SMSQ.J-M-S.com

# QL is 21!

... so let's come together!

J-M-S has a very special offer for you, valid only at the show on Saturday!

QPC2 V3 at the show for only **£33.33**

QPCPrint at the show for only **£22.22**

Jochen Merz and Marcel Kilgus will be present - mainly on Saturday, as we have to leave on Sunday morning to catch our ferry in time!
We will also bring the next issue of QL Today to the show, as well as back-issues, special CD-R/W and DVR+/-R/W offers etc. If you need larger quantities, please send an email a few days in advance.

# Independent QL Users Group

World-wide Membership is by subscription only,
offering the following benefits:
Bimonthly Newsletter – up to 40 pages
Massive Software Library – All Free !
Free Helpline and Workshops
Regional Sub-Groups. One near you?
Advice on Software and Hardware problems
Subscription just £14 for UK members
Overseas subscription £17

Barclaycard: Visa: Access: MasterCard: Accepted

***Now in our Twenty Second Year***

Further details from the Membership Secretary

**John Gilpin, 181, Urmston Lane**
**Stretford, Manchester, M32 9EH**
**Tel. +44 (0) 161 865 2872**
**or**
**Visit the Quanta Web Site**
***http://www.quanta.org.uk***
*E-mail: membership@quanta.org.uk*

# Next QUANTA Sponsored Event

**SURREY QUANTA SUB-GROUP AND LONDON QL AND QUANTA GROUP PRESENT**

## BYFLEET 2005 QUANTA WORKSHOP

## ON SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2005, FROM 10AM TO 4 PM

# Q-Celt Computing

Specialists in QL specific CD's and DVD's, Hardware and Software.

c/o Darren Branagh, Gortnaclassa, Cong, Co.Mayo, Ireland.
Tel: (+353)86-8100090. Email: dbranagh@cmsperipherals.com

## PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW POSTAL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES!!

And…..

Just to let you know, we are still very much alive!! We have been sadly missing from many of the recent shows due to family and work commitments – but we are still in business!! (honest!!)

So, if you are looking for the widest range of QL CD-ROM's, and DVD's, or some older hardware or software – then please contact us on any of the above methods – we don't bite!!

## CALL OR EMAIL US TODAY!!

We accept cheques made payable to D.Branagh, credit cards (by prior arrangement only) money orders, bank drafts, and even cash!! Due to stock levels and work commitments, please allow up to 14 days for delivery., though we will try to be at prompt as possible.

# PORTSMOUTH PREVIEW or UP POMPEY!

Geoff Wicks

If all goes according to our plans, this issue of the Quanta Magazine will not only contain details of the QL is 21 show at Portsmouth, but also the results of the survey of members and non-members that Quanta carried out last year.

One finding of the survey, which surprised the Quanta committee and many others besides, was the large proportion of members whose QL use remains much the same as it was 21 years ago when the QL was first produced.

This fact has considerable implications for the activity programme we are planning at Portsmouth. Normally we want to show off the latest developments in hardware and software at QL shows. The survey results have forced us to rethink.

QL is 21 must be a show for all Quanta members (and non-members) and that includes black box users. We have about 11 hours of activity time available, which should give us more than enough time to cater for all levels of QL use, but what I do not know is what activities would interest black box users. These do not necessarily have to be lectures or demonstrations, but can include technical help with specific problems.

I am not just interested in the technical side of the QL, but would also like to know what you use your QL for. Your main QL use may be Quill, but what are you typing into it? Are you a (semi)professional writer; or secretary of a club; or do you have another business use for your QL? I am also looking for people who have unusual uses for their QL.

Many of the black box users who responded to the survey expressed the feeling that Quanta was doing little to support them. QL is 21 could be your opportunity to change that. Please let me know what you would like to see at QL is 21. Even if you cannot make it to Portsmouth I would still

like to hear from you, because any comments you make can be passed onto the committee for attention in the magazine or elsewhere.

Another group of QL-ers whose interests have been neglected in recent years are the Q60/Q40 users. Unfortunately the Graf brothers cannot be present at QL is 21, but there will be an opportunity for Q60/Q40 users to meet together to discuss mutual problems. Again I want to know what Q60/Q40 users would like to discuss and am seeking a volunteer to chair the discussion.

In the UK we have lost the skill of running activities at shows, and there are very few people I can call upon as presenters. For this reason I want to explore the possibility of what I call "huddles". In other words Portsmouth could be a chance for people with a specific interest to get together to share problems and possibilities. One example, that I have just made is Q60/Q40 users. There are probably people who would hate to give a formal presentation, but who would be quite happy to chair and co-ordinate a "huddle". Suggestions of "huddle themes" and offer to chair such a group will be welcomed.

Another huddle I have in mind is to get pointer programmers together. Dilwyn Jones has kindly agreed to give some sort of EasyPtr presentation. We are still discussing the details of this and will probably extemporise a little on the day, but the opportunities for pointer programmers have improved greatly in the last year with the release of EasyPtr 4 and this gives us the potential for new QL software.

On a similar theme George Gwilt has offered to talk about the latest developments in Turbo and TPTR. In the last few years George has solved many of the shortcomings in the Turbo compiler so that it could potentially replace QLiberator as THE compiler for QL use. Aside from his Turbo and pointer work, George has written a program cashing in on one of the latest media trends, but we are keeping the details under wraps until the show!

I hope to present something on using the new colours in your own programs. The theme of my presentation will be that anyone who has written even the simplest of SuperBasic programs can use the new colours.

You do not even have to have a technical knowledge of the pointer environment to do it.

The main emphasis at the show will be on software as this is the area where the most QL development has occurred in the last year. I hope to have public demonstrations of QDT and Launchpad and would like to hear from anyone who has problems or comments on these programs.

Another new program is QPC Print, which allows QPC2 users to use almost any printer. QPC Print is a PC program and I suspect there may be a few purchasers who have difficulty in understanding some of the concepts. Again please let me know of any problems you are having using or understanding this program.

At Portsmouth we shall have a projector available and traders will find it worthwhile to leave their tables and give large screen demonstrations of their programs. Last year the QWord project was almost abandoned from lack of interest. Sales and interest took off after I had given two large screen demonstrations at QL shows.

The mention of QWord leads me to the idea of an interactive games session. New colours and better sound have revolutionised QL games in the last 12 months. Is there a gamer out there who would like to demonstrate some or all of QWord, Balled and D-Miner?

In addition to software there must also be a place for hardware and for Quanta matters, which could include changes to the magazine and the website.

There is no shortage of topics to fill the activity programme at Portsmouth, but these ideas can only be put into practice if people are prepared to help with presentations or chairing huddles. I am still looking for such people.

If there is a problem or an item you would like raised at QL is 21, I want to know it. If nothing else it would give me an idea whose arm to twist.

## Membership Renewals John Gilpin

At one of two points in the year, January and July, Quanta members are reminded to renew their annual membership. Normally, this is done by printing the words "SUBS DUE" on the address label which is attached by the printer to the envelope which contains your current magazine. The printer is also asked to print and include with the magazines so marked, a brief letter reminding the member that his/her subscription is due and also a copy of the membership renewal form. This arrangement has stood us in good stead for a number of years. Unfortunately, some slip-up occurred recently and although the reminder letter was included, some members reported that the renewal form was not. True to the spirit of Quanta and the QL community as a whole, most affected members used the blank reverse side of the letter to confirm their current name and address details and sent this with their cheque to me for renewal. I have spoken to the printer and he has sent his apology for this omission. Upon receipt of the renewals, I have been able to complete a form on the member's behalf and renew their membership in the usual way. I would like to thank you all for your quick thinking and I in turn apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Of course, the easiest way of renewing your membership is by Bank Standing Order and a mandate for this is included for your use on each membership form. This means that, provided there is sufficient funds in your account, you bank will automatically send me your subscription together with sufficient information for me to identify the member and make the renewal. Using this method, there is no longer any need to find the form, cheque book envelope and postage stamp each year and the statement from the bank to me acts as confirmation of your renewal. Indeed the only time you would need to contact me would be if you changed your address or bank details. If you would like to join those who already renew by Standing Order, let me know and I will send you the form to set it up.

Thank you to all our members for continuing to renew your membership. The results of the recent membership survey should enable us to satisfy all our member's needs more fully via the magazine and the other services which we offer.

John Gilpin,
Quanta Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

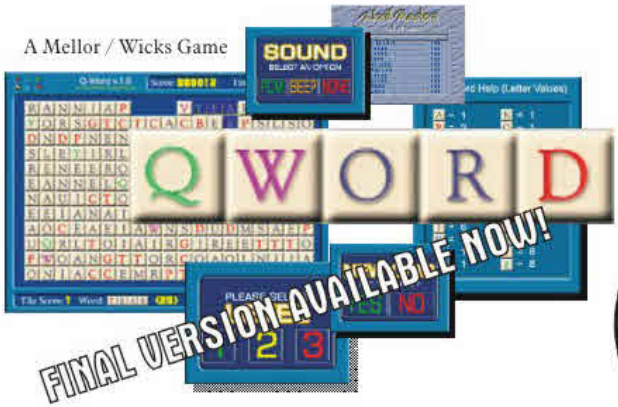
# RWAP Software

in cooperation with

JUST WORDS! Quantum Leap Hardware & Software

PRESENTS...

A Mellor / Wicks Game



*for the Q40 & Q60 (And Aurora/SGC)*

*for QPCII & QXL*

## Scrabble® Meets Tetris® Meets the clock!

In glorious colour and digital sound! (Aurora too!)

For the first time in the history of the QL, a truly high colour, digital sound *really* addictive game, in superb 1024 x 512 (640 x 480 on QPC/QXL and 512 x 480 on the Aurora) high colour. SMSQ/e is NOT needed for the Aurora (and soon for the Q40/60) but it is recommended The innovations are too many to mention but let's just say that the surprises start with its user-friendly installer which is unlike any other!

The object of the game is to clear letter tiles from the grid by using them to form words. Points are based on the length of the word and the letters used. Simple, yet addictive!

### PRICES

| | |
|---|---|
| QWord for QPC2/QXL (CDROM) | £20 |
| QWord for Q40/Q60 (HD FDD) | £20 |
| QWord for Aurora/SGC (HD FDD) | £20 |
| *Add Pword* (500,000 word UK dictionary) | £10 |

If you want more than one version of QWord (eg. to play on Aurora as well) - add £5 for each additional version.

**SPECIAL OFFER! FOR AURORA/SGC USERS**

BUY Q-WORD WITH Colour Drivers version of SMSQ/e for the SGC

**!!ONLY £50!!**

### LANGUAGES

Each version is supplied with one dictionary (normally the OSPD UK English Scrabble Dictionary).
However, QWord can also be configured to use the following alternative language grids:

**Dutch, English (USA), English (UK), French & German**

Specialist QTYP dictionaries for each language have been produced, which removes the need for accented characters in the foreign languages.
You can choose ANY one dictionary to be supplied with QWord.
Alternatively, order additional dictionaries for £2 per dictionary.

RWAP Services
26 Oak Road, Sheffield, Walsall, West Midlands WS4 1RQ, United Kingdom Website: http://www.rwapsoftware.co.uk

We accept:

PayPal VERIFIED NOCHEX (PayPal/Nochex Payments to RWAPSoftware@aol.com. Cheques in £ sterling made payable to R. Mellor)

# QL Today

## The magazine for all QDOS SMSQ users published 5 times a year.

Volume 10 starts here!

Issue 1 of Volume 10 will be available mid June. Celebrating 10 years of providing top notch service and information to the QL community.

If you not returned your renewal forms please do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out.

Issue 9 saw the start of a new series to help people to get to grips with the new facilities, colours, emulators and hardware as well as many program reviews and super features.

You can subscribe by contacting :

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Tel +49 (0) 203 502011 Fax +49 (0) 203 502012
email : jmerz@j-m-s.com

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Tel +44 (0) 1273 386030 (eves) Fax +44 (0) 1273 430501
email : sales@qbranch.demon.co.uk

**web : www.qltoday.com**

# QUANTA MEMBER SURVEY 2004

## John Southern (Secretary 2004/5)

Here are the results of the Survey.

In total 124 people replied of which over 90 were through Tony Firshman's on-line form. My personal thanks to Tony for producing the form in such a quick time.

Dealing with percentages first.

58% of the replies came from current Quanta members. This means that 52 replies were from non-Quanta members. I am very grateful to everyone who filled in the survey.

Only 10% have indicated they have used the Helpline.
However 67% had visited the Quanta website.
42% have attended a workshop with Eindhoven being voted the best, followed by Hove.

We had just one female response, but as that was my wife we can assume it is almost exclusively a male occupation with Quanta having only three female members.

83% have expanded QLs. 88% of whom have floppy drives. The extra 5% recorded that they have floppy disks, but no expansion. From this we can see that there could be an element of error within the results.

94 answers (75.6%) replied that they use QL emulators. This is split as 70 with QPC, 22 with uQLx, 18 with QXL, 17 with Qemulator, 7 with QLAY, 5 with Atari and 9 others. Again we can see that many have more than one emulator. Ten having both QPC and uQLx.

56% have QLs as a hobby while only 13% play games. 26% use QLs for personal correspondence and 24% for writing. One of the biggest surprises for me was that 19% use their QLs for business reasons. 59%

state they program and 25% for data handling. Controlling scores 10% while faxing just 3%.

Back to expansion. 47% have SuperGoldCards. The total for GoldCards and TrumpCards is 33% and 20% respectively. 8% have SuperQboards and 7% have Cumana. All other expansion cards scored around 4%.

34% have cased QLs, with 20% using Qplane and 10% with Mplane.

While only 4% of respondents own Thor computers, 18 have Q40s and 14 have Q60s (5 replied that they have both).

27% have Aurora expansions. 19 people have I2C interfaces of which 15 have Analogue interfaces.
31% have Romdisq storage with 17% being 8MB versions. and 11% having the 2MB size.
11% have the QEPIII Eprom programmers. 40% have superHermes and 28% have Hermes.
52% have keyboard interfaces with superHermes accounting for 26% and Di-Ren and Falkenburg having 13% and 9% respectively.

Presumably because of QPAC2, 68% have mice. 32% being Sermouse and Qimi making 17%. ICE mouse users managed just 2 replies.

Only 67% have printers attached. Printers used were split, but HP and Epson dominated.

49% have hard drives with the vast majority being Qubides although 7% have Miracle hard drives.

84% use QLs for word-processing with some 65% still using Quill. The majority of the others being Text87 and The Editor.
71% use spreadsheets with some 23% owning QSpread. The majority being taken up by Abacus.

51% are interested in Software development while 18% are interested in Hardware development.

The comments proved very interesting, but would take far too long to print here.
One replied that he uses the QL for music composing, while many are for nostalgia only. One is being used for electronic PCB design in the University of Essex.

Many of the paper responses had additional letters attached. Of these a high proportion had the original QLs with little expansion. They did not want to expand and felt that they were forgetting some of the simple tips and tricks if they have even learnt them They felt that the QL scene was moving away from them although they remained interested, they felt much was not explained. Each of these felt that they were on their own and did not want me to pass on their names. How we include these users in the future remains to be seen.

I have passed the comments on to Quanta Committee to assist them in deciding the way ahead.

What did I learn during the survey.
1) Appreciation for others (Tony F) for so quickly producing the on-line version.
2) No single survey will satisfy all QL'ers
3) Next time to ask around for questions that others would like to see included
4) Many QL'ers only have basic equipment.

Finally, I understand that Quanta Committee are so pleased with the number of replies that they have decided to double the number of prizes to 6 - three for Quanta members together with an equal three for Other QL users.

**(Ed.** It is intended to present the prizes during "QL is 21" at Portsmouth.**)**

## QUANTA COMMITTEE PRĒCIS Sarah Gilpin

At the Quanta Committee held on 7th August 2005 it was decided to publish précis of its meetings in the magazine.

The committee hold two types of meeting:

1 Normal or traditional ones where it meets together round a table; these occur immediately after the AGM and on at least two other times a year.
2 Email meetings, which occur between normal meetings to decide some point that needs early decision.

One email meeting was a request for support of the Byfleet workshop. The question was sent to all committee members with their answers to be sent to me. A record has been added to the minute book that the concensus of the committee was to support Byfleet workshop. That has been notified to the organisers, and members of the committee will attend the workshop.

A normal committee meeting was held on August 7th with John Mason, Sarah Gilpin, John Gilpin, Geoff Wicks and Roy Brereton attending. John Gregory sent his apologies. The main points covered were as follows:

1 John Gilpin reported that we had received a refund from the Inland Revenue again this year. He also reported that the renewals of membership for January had required 54 reminders to be sent out. There was an error with the request for July renewals in that the printer forgot to put the renewal forms in with the magazine and for that we apologise to our members that should have received them.
2 An update was given on progress for the 'QL is 21' international workshop in October. Roy and Geoff are to provide additional information in this newsletter. A carvery style dinner will be

held on the Saturday. A Guests programme will be made available on the weekend.

3 A number of suggestions were put forward for the future presentation of the newsletter. Costs have been looked at for the alternative formats of A5 (as is) and A4, with a view to providing the newsletter electronically to those members that would like to receive it that way sometime in 2006. Further consideration is required before a definitive decision can be reached.

4 Among other matters of business discussed were:

- a second QUANTA banner with 'QL is 21' on the reverse side
- whether we should activate a QUANTA chat site, and who would administer it?
- That bids be invited to host the AGM 2006 somewhere in the North of England in the next newsletter.

## Library Corner — John Gregory

As I mentioned in the last issue of Quanta, work has been going on to convert some of the Psion programs to make use of the extended (GD2) colours that are now available with SMSQ/E. Roger Godley has been working initially on Quill and a version is now available for Quanta members to try out. The program is designed primarily for QXL and QPC2 platforms. SMSQ/E version 3.06 or higher is needed. The program is not very effective on the Aurora/Super Gold Card platform because of the lack of memory available.

Versions are provided for horizontal screen resolutions of 1024 and 800 pixels which makes it possible now to view up to 64 lines of a Quill document at once without scrolling. Two basic colour schemes are provided, one with a pleasing cream background and the other with a gray one. Facilities are provided to make adjustments to these colours to suit one's own taste. Although the program is recognisably Quill it has a very pleasing modern feel to it. Multiple copies can be run

simultaneously and each copy is automatically assigned a slightly different background colour and is shifted laterally in the display. All the usual Pointer Environment methods can be used to switch between jobs.

A tool is provided that shows how the program is employing memory. It is hoped that a modified version of Archive will be available later in the year.

Ask for disc PS09 .

Bruno Coativy's patches that will allow Psion's Chess to work on modern platforms, in particular without the need to use a microdrive cartridge, are now available. Ask for disc GS11.

The above changes result in the Library CD now being at revision 1.51.

## HELPLINE — Geoff Wicks

**Question:** I have recently upgraded to QPC2 and have only one disk drive on my PC. How can I copy disks?

**Answer:** Stand up all of you at the back of the class who sniggered when you heard this question. Since you are all such clever clogs, who can tell me where I can find the answer in the QPC2 or SMSQ-E manuals? No one can? Then sit down and pay attention!

The query came from a user who mainly used his black box for Quill documents, and who upgraded to a PC and QPC2 so he could transfer his files to PC format to make them more widely available. The answer to his query is in the Toolkit 2 manual, which does not come with QPC2.

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1: Put the disk you want to copy in the disk drive and type in the command:

WCOPY flp1_ to ram1_

At the prompt press "A" for All. This transfers all the files on the disk to memory.

2: Take the disk out, and replace it with an empty disk. Format this, if necessary. Now type in the command:

WCOPY ram1_ to flp1_

When you press "A" for All, the files will be copied from memory to the disk.

3: If you want another back up disk repeat stage 2

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Thanks from the helpline to David Bunbury who responded to my request for information on transferring graphics from QL to PC format. He included a lot of information that was new to the helpdesk.

At the moment I have not had the time to do my homework, but I hope to return to the subject sometime in the future with a longer "Helpline Special" article.

If any members have points to raise on these matters please email your views to the Secretary, and I will put them to the next meeting.

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We can supply most programs available for QDOS/SMSQ systems. We can sometimes supply second user hardware - contact us to see what is available because supplies can vary.
We are also agents for QL Today - **THE** QL magazine.

## QDT by Jim Hunkins

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